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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Information concerning the Upper Austrian Branch of the Communist Party of AustriaEVALUATION 25X1A PLACE OBTAINED 25X1ADATE OF CONTENT late May 1950DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 24 July 1950

REFERENCES

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REMARKS

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Focal Points of Communist Propaganda.

1. Editor in chief Richard Schueller, of the Communist newspaper Neue Zeit in Linz stated that the propaganda of the Communist Party in Austria is focused at present on the issue of world peace with a view toward harassing the Austrian Government and giving the rest of the world the impression that Austria is dominated by the Communist Party. Schueller also said that the Communist Party has initiated the establishment of people's councils which will begin functioning in Upper Austria by mid-June 1950. \* Another task of the Communist Party, according to Schueller, is to counteract the increasing sympathies for the policy of the West German Government. This task is to be undertaken by disrupting the German connections of the Austrian People's Party and by rousing anti-German feelings among the nationalist elements in Austria. In this regard Schueller also mentioned the efforts of the West European Catholic parties to build a common defense front, including the effecting of an early German-French union.

Peace Campaign in Upper Austria.

2. Schueller and other Communist Party functionaries in Upper Austria have expressed disapproval of the results of the Communist peace campaign. Noticeable gains have been made only in the industrial areas of Linz and Steyr, in the Muehlviertel and in Urfahr. Further efforts are to be directed at proselyting among the Salzkammergut population, for which purpose an office for propaganda and organization will be established in Gmunden.

Reorganization of the Communist Party branch in the Muehlviertel.

3. Schueller indicated that the Communist Party branch in the Muehlviertel is to undergo complete reorganization. Pertinent changes will be effected by the Vienna Central Committee of the party on orders of the Soviet Military Administration.

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The party branch in the Muehlviertel is to be remodeled in accordance with the pattern of the Socialist Unity Party of the Soviet Zone of Germany. Special efforts will be made to proselyte among the rural population because the Soviet Military Administration has charged the Communist Party with alienating itself from the peasants. The reorganization of the Muehlviertel party branch is scheduled to be completed by August 1950.

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\* Comment. Local people's councils are to encompass persons of all walks of life who have Marxist and anti-Fascist leanings or who are politically indifferent. Those selected for people's councils will not be informed but will merely be reported by the party locals to the provincial headquarters. People's councils are also being established in large industrial enterprises, with the councillors being picked by the Communist Party cell. It has been noticed that the party suborganizations have not as yet been briefed on the purpose and the functions of the people's councils.

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